
PSYCHOLOGY 496

FIELDWORK IN HUMAN SERVICES PSYCHOLOGY—SYLLABUS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology 496 involves supervised field experiences in community agencies concerned with the promotion of human well-being through the application of psychological knowledge. This course is offered on a credit/no credit basis, for variable units (1-5). Psychology majors must complete at least two units to fulfill the Applied Experience requirement for the major.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Self-Understanding: to understand oneself
2. Interpersonal Skills: to work effectively with others
3. Cultural Awareness: to understand and be aware of differences among people
4. Ethics: to understand and apply ethical principles

Prerequisites:

- Psychology 291, with a grade of “C” or better
- Overall GPA of 2.0 or better

Corequisite:

- For those students taking an applied experience course (396, 496, 497, 481, or 498) for the first time, Psychology 395 must be taken concurrently. Students who take an applied experience course more than once are not required to take Psychology 395 again.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To receive credit for this course, students must complete the following:

- Completed Applied Experience Time Log
- A Weekly Journal
- Supervisor's signed Evaluation of Student
- An Applied Experience Paper
- Concurrent enrollment in Psychology 395, if this is the first time an applied experience course has been taken

Time Log

The time log is a form that students will complete indicating the time they spent working at their Applied Experience placement. This form must be signed by the Applied Experience Supervisor. This form should be turned in to Jared Chapman at the end of the quarter.

Weekly Journal

In the weekly journal, students will describe their activities. It should consist of students' reflections, impressions, feelings, opinions, and questions about the experiences in the placement. The journal should be kept in a form that is easily turned in. It may be neatly handwritten or typed. It is best if students make a journal entry at least once each week so that the experiences are fresh in their minds. The journal should be turned in to Jared Chapman at the end of the quarter.

Supervisor's Signed Evaluation Sheet

The evaluation sheet can be obtained from Jared Chapman. The supervisor at the placement site should complete the form and the student should return the form to Jared Chapman.

Applied Experience Paper

Students will write a paper reflecting on their experiences and applying psychological concepts and theories to their experiences. See below. Students are to turn in the Applied Experience Paper to Jared Chapman.

Applied Experience Paper Instructions

The Applied Experience Paper has two parts. The total length of the paper should be as follows:

- For 1 unit: 3 to 4 pages (Part I = 1 ½ - 2 pages; Part II = 1 ½ - 2 pages)
- For 2 units: Part I = 1 ½ - 2 pages; Part II = 3 - 4 pages (Total: 4 ½ - 6 pages)
- For 3 units: Part I = 1 ½ - 2 pages; Part II = 4 ½ - 6 pages (Total: 6 - 8 pages)
- For 4 units: Part I = 1 ½ - 2 pages; Part II = 6 - 8 pages (Total: 7 ½ - 10 pages)
- For 5 units: Part I = 1 ½ - 2 pages; Part II = 7 ½ - 10 pages (Total 9 - 11 pages)
- Papers should be typed, doubled-spaced, in Times New Roman, 12-point font.
- **Due date: The last day of regular classes in the quarter you are enrolled, by 5:00 pm.** Late papers will not be accepted (which will result in not receiving credit for the Applied Experience).
- **Students will turn the Applied Experience Paper into Jared Chapman.**

PART I (1 ½ TO 2 PAGES)

1. Background and Assessment of the Experience

- Provide a brief overview of your typical activities in the Applied Experience.
- What activities were most beneficial in your education and/or career goals?
- What changes would you recommend for the experience to be more beneficial to you and/or to other students?

2. Self-Understanding Goal: To understand oneself

- What did your experience tell you about your suitability for work in the area of your Applied Experience? Explain.
- What else of importance did you learn about yourself from the experience?

3. Interpersonal Skills Goal: To work effectively with others

- Describe in what ways your experience involved working with others. Provide evidence or examples from your experiences about the quality of your interactions with others.
- When interacting with others, what did you do well or not so well? Are there areas that you need to work on? Explain. (When appropriate, you may want to solicit and include feedback from your sponsor or site supervisor about the quality of your work and interactions with others.)

4. Cultural Awareness Goal: To understand and be aware of differences among people

- If you worked with those who differ from you in such areas as gender, age, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, or physical/emotional/cognitive abilities, describe those differences and what you learned from your interactions.

5. Ethics Goal: To understand and apply ethical principles, particularly those stressed by the “Ethical Principles of Psychologists”

- What ethical concerns arose from your applied experience?
- How did you resolve any ethical conflicts or situations?
- What ethical principles are relevant?
- What did you learn about your ethical standards and behaviors from your experiences?

Note: You may wish to review APA’s code of ethics. To do so, go to www.apa.org, and click on “Ethics” in the menu on the left side of the screen. There you can read about the newly revised code of ethics.

PART II (SEE ABOVE FOR PAGE GUIDELINES)

Logical Reasoning Goal: To use psychological research and theory to reach conclusions
OR

Theory Goal: To understand and apply psychological theories and principles

Summarize and apply one different concept or article for *each* unit of credit. Be sure to cite your sources. For example, if you are taking 2 units, you will need to include either 2 concepts, 2 articles, *or* 1 article and 1 concept.

- Describe in detail one theory, principle or concept (per unit) from your coursework or summarize the main concepts of a journal article, *and*
- Demonstrate how the concept(s) or article(s) relate(s) to your applied experience
- *Note:* the concepts of Positive and Negative Reinforcement are not allowable for this portion of the paper, because they have been discussed in the weekly 395 postings.